

# PROJECT UPDATE

## Sri Lanka Displaced Children Development Project



### WELCOME TO OUR UPDATE NEWSLETTER

In January 2018 we launched the Sri Lanka Displaced Children Development Project for our children's homes and farm in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka.

This newsletter contains general updates on what has occurred in the project from September 2018 until April 2019.

I would like to thank all of our generous supporters of the children's homes. You are very much appreciated! We could not have achieved everything to date without your support and generosity.

I hope you all enjoy reading through the following update and be encouraged by the great work that is taking place.

**Pr Mike Groom**

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**May 2019**



## OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT

This project has three goals that were developed to assist in achieving the overall aim of the project that is laid out in the major objective. The major objective of this project is:

*To support and empower displaced children and young people through quality education (primary, secondary and tertiary), improved healthcare, adequate subsistence (food, clothing, accommodation, water, sanitation and recreation), a safe family-like living environment, and ongoing developmental support (physical, emotional, mental and intellectual).*

Goal one is to have a functioning farm that contributes to the ongoing sustainability of the project. The outcome of this goal will be to have a fully functioning farm with

crops and animals that will provide more funds to decrease the dependency of the project on outside funding.

Goal two is to establish a Vocational Training Centre that runs short courses to train and empower young people as they transition to independent life. The outcome is that young people are provided with an opportunity to gain valuable skills that will increase their employability and livelihoods, and decrease their overall dependency on the homes.

Goal three is to empower displaced and disadvantaged Sri Lankan children through education, developmental support and a safe living environment. The outcome of this goal is that the children and staff thrive in a family-like environment, with sound care, support and education opportunities.





## A SUCCESSFUL RICE HARVEST

In the second half of 2018 and the beginning of 2019, we have been able to grow and harvest approximately four acres of rice. The rice was harvested in February 2019 one night at midnight. Some of the older boys from the children's home, along with our male staff and farmer, harvested all of the rice through the use of a hired harvesting machine.

They collected enough rice to feed the children in the homes for one year. Any left-over rice will potentially be sold to the public. The success of our first harvest is a very strong encouragement for the future.

## WELCOMING GOATS TO THE FARM

Not too long after the rice harvest, World Vision gifted our farm eight goats (one

male and seven females). A few of the females have given birth to baby goats which is exciting for the children!

Our workers have built a goat shed for shelter. We have employed a new farmer on the property and his wife has decided to become the herdsman for the goats through her own initiative. It is encouraging to see our new farm staff showing a willingness to be involved in the development of the farm.

## SEWING WORKSHOP

Last November all the girls, carers, Heather, Emma and I spent time at the sewing school. We took on the massive task of sewing a stuffed deer or sheep for each girl. Lots of fun was had and eventually we had a production line working, starting with Emma doing the cutting out, some of the older girls and



staff sewing, and the small girls stuffing the toys. The matron of the girls' home finished by doing the hand sewing.

We were unable to complete them all at the sewing school for there were other duties to be done. When we went to see the girls after tea, they were all together with the production line in progress completing the task. Every girl had a stuffed toy. The next day I saw some of the girls had visitors and they were proudly showing off their work.

*Judy Kowald*

### BOYS' HOME REPAIRS

In our last update newsletter, we showed how we had repaired the damaged roof on the kitchen, dining and study area on the boys' home property. We mentioned, however, that the overall facility still needed a bit of maintenance.

In this newsletter we are happy to report that all of the outdoor work has now been completed on the building, including a fresh paint job. We still have a few maintenance ideas that we would like to complete inside the facility, however, these can wait until later in the project.

### CHICKEN COOP AT THE BOYS' HOME

We have constructed a chicken coop on the boys' home property. One of our boys has taken ownership of the chicken coop through his own initiative and excitedly collects the eggs every day. We currently have 13 roosters and 23 chickens.

The costs of feeding the roosters and chickens is covered through the selling of coconuts. The ongoing success of the chicken coop and the joy it brings the boys is a great encouragement!





## ENGLISH CLASSES AND TUTORING

One of our older girls who finished high school and returned to her family at the end of last year continues to come back to the homes to tutor the children. It is great to see that somebody who has come through the homes still has a heart to be involved in the project and to serve the children.

## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

As mentioned in our last newsletter, three of our older children were awaiting their high school results. They have since received their results. One of the boys (pictured above) achieved one of the highest results in the Eastern region. He has qualified for university and is waiting to hear if he will be accepted. If he is accepted, he will be the first person from

his village to go through university.

The only downside is that it is often hard for Tamil people to be accepted into university. However, his excellent results should help. The success this young man has managed to achieve is very encouraging as he did not know how to read or write when he came to the home. We have included his testimonial below.

*"I can boldly say that this home has created a good future for my life. I really thank God. God has given a good staff and good brothers around me in this home. God has really blessed me in this place. When I came to the children's home in 2007, I can't read and I can't write so I didn't know anything. Now I just finished my A levels and I got all As in my subjects and this much God has helped me to do. Now I am waiting for university."*



## CHALLENGES

We have a number of challenges and pressing needs currently within the project. In our last newsletter we mentioned that we were looking for a new cook for the boys' home. Since then we managed to hire a new cook, however, that cook has since resigned which leaves us in a difficult position. We are currently looking for another cook but the present salary demand presents a bit of a challenge.

In addition to this, we have a great farmer and his family currently assisting us on the farm, however, we need to employ multiple other farmers. We have a number of large-scale initiatives that we would like to see come to fruition on the property but we do not have enough workers to make everything happen. Challenges associated with accommodation and high salary demands present an issue for us.

## PLANS FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS

Over the next six months for our first goal we are focusing on preparing land for another rice harvest. If we manage to hire more farmers, we would also like to develop the land for our coconut plantation, plant more vegetables, upgrade the cow shed, purchase cows, construct a chicken coop, and buy some chickens.

Within our second goal our main focus is finalising the plans for our multipurpose building and beginning construction. We would also like to start developing the plans for the remaining buildings needed for our Vocational Training Centre.

For our third goal one of our major aims is to update our computer suites within the homes and install Tamil so they are of greater benefit to our children.





## TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS

We have been able to secure tax deductible benefits for this project thanks to our partnership with Global Development Group (GDG).

If you would like to donate towards the Sri Lanka Displaced Children Development Project with the benefit of tax deductibility please follow the instructions below.

### Step 1: Direct Bank Deposit (online)

Direct Deposit tax deductible donations can be made using the following details.

**Account Name:** Global Development Group

**BSB:** 064118

**Account Number:** 10200094

**Reference:** e.g. J. Smith J982N

Please make sure you include your initials

(e.g. J. Smith), followed by **J982N** in the reference section so GDG can trace your deposit.

### Step 2: Email GDG your donation details

Email [info@globaldevelopment.org.au](mailto:info@globaldevelopment.org.au) with the following details.

- a) Your name and address
- b) Amount and date of donation
- c) Project number - **J982N**

GDG will send you a receipt for your tax deductible donation.

If you would like to contribute to the project on a regular basis you will need to set this up with your bank and then let GDG know that it will be a recurring donation.

Thank you very much for your support.

# PARTNER INFORMATION

Door of Hope International is a partner for project J982N Sri Lanka Displaced Children Development Project with Global Development Group (ABN 57 102 400 993), an Australian NGO approved by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Tax deductible receipts for gifts over \$2 with a preference for this approved development project will be issued by Global Development Group for project J982N. If funds raised exceed the requirement for this project, funds may be directed to another approved activity.

For more information about Global Development Group please visit:  
**[www.gdg.org.au](http://www.gdg.org.au)**

For more information about the project or to donate online please visit:  
**[www.gdg.org.au/InfoJ982N](http://www.gdg.org.au/InfoJ982N)**

For more information about the project, including child sponsorship, please email:  
**[mike@adelaidechristiancentre.com.au](mailto:mike@adelaidechristiancentre.com.au)**



## PROJECT VIDEO LINKS

Sri Lanka Displaced Children Development Project – Goals 1 and 2 Overview  
**[https://youtu.be/winkv\\_z7Ta4](https://youtu.be/winkv_z7Ta4)**

Sri Lanka Displaced Children Development Project – Goal 3 Overview  
**<https://youtu.be/PdlczG6hcGM>**

Sri Lanka Displaced Children Development Project – Long Overview  
**<https://youtu.be/OxopIPYn1xw>**

Sri Lanka Displaced Children Development Project – Short Overview  
**<https://youtu.be/37Tn7QrgGvA>**